

M-S freshman DeWitt in state run

By E. W. Hesse
Staff Writer

Scott DeWitt, a freshman, will represent Mahomet-Seymour High School in the state cross country title run at Detweiller Park, Peoria (just off State Highway 29, north of the city) Saturday. The Class A boys race is slated to start at 10:30 am.

Young DeWitt is the only Bulldog to survive the sectional meet held at Mahomet last Saturday. His team placed sixth, one short of qualifying for the state, with 199 points. Clinton was seventh, right on the Bulldogs' heels with 200. Normal U-High was an impressive first with 41 points. St. Joseph-Ogden and Chrisman, each with 95, ran 2-3 (SJ-O) had the faster sixth runner to resolve the tie). Urbana Uni High was fourth with 134, Robinson was fifth with 139.

Individually, DeWitt finished 13th, timed at 16:27 over the three-mile course. Jason McKinney of Georgetown-Ridge Farm won the race in 15:42.

"I think Scott is the first Mahomet-Seymour freshman ever to make it to the state meet," said John King, who's been the

Bulldogs' coach for almost a generation. "I'm not exactly surprised that he's reached the finals. Remember, he ran a strong third in the state grade school meet last year."

Other members of the Bulldog team fared as follows in the M-S sectional: John Arbuckle, 27th in 16:58; freshman Grant Iles, 49th in 17:32; sophomore Josh Smith, 70th in 17:57; and soph Phillip Alexander, 91st in 18:26.

The first seven runners who were not members of qualifying teams made it to the state meet. DeWitt was sixth by that count.

Junior Stacey Elkins and senior Jama Ryan, the two Mahomet-Seymour girls who qualified for the sectional meet on the strength of their individual regional performances, ran 27th in 12:58 and 55th in 13:29 respectively. Elkins' effort was noteworthy: she had also placed 27th in the regional — but with a time of 14:12, thus had slashed 1:14 off her clocking. Ryan's sectional time was 12 seconds faster than her regional mark.